

I. INTRODUCTION

Incumbent serves as an Agricultural Commodity Aid (Raisin) in either a receiving station, dehydrator, processing plant, or central analysis laboratory, and performs routine tasks relating to the sampling and the determination of the quality and condition of natural condition and/or processed raisins.

II. MAJOR DUTIES

Performs work in one or more of the following locations:

1. Receiving Stations and/or Dehydrators

Prepares samples provided by an inspector or higher grade level Aid for testing. Preparations may include drying, moisturizing, substandard elimination, grinding into paste, washing, stemming, counting, and weighing. Performs tests on samples to determine percentages of moisture and substandard and "B" or better maturity. Determines kinds and amounts of molds present, amounts of embedded sand, and percentages of various other defects that may be present. By evaluation, determines color of Golden raisins. Incumbent operates the Dried Fruit Moisture Tester, the Airstream Sorter for Maturity, Avoirdupois and metric scales, and other inspection equipment and tools. As scheduled, calibrates equipment.

2. Processing Plants

Performs sanitation inspection, condition of container inspection, case stamping, and check loading. Carries out phases of inspection such as sampling and determining defects present in arriving at the quality, condition, and grade of processed raisins. Incumbent operates the Dried Fruit Moisture Tester, the Airstream Sorter for Maturity, Avoirdupois and metric scales, and other inspection equipment and tools.

3. Central Analysis Laboratories

Performs filth analysis on samples of natural condition and processed raisins submitted to the laboratory. Operates a multipower wide-field microscope to identify the kinds and amounts of filth present. Identifies insects and parts of insects in their various stages - egg, larva, pupae, and adult. Identified striated hair, feather barbules, and other filth such as larvae excrement.

4. Other

At all work locations, records results as required. Maintains records of worksheets and certificates issued to inspectors and makes necessary records to maintain identity of samples keyed to lots.

Maintains records of off-grade lots and prepares and maintains surveillance worksheets for lots transferred to and from other handlers or reconditioners. Compiles inspection results and prepares certificates and ledgers required under the marketing order.

III. FACTORS

Factor 1. Knowledge Required by the Position

Knowledge of the detailed instructions and regulations necessary to correctly draw samples, checkload, etc.

Skill in performing routine laboratory procedures such as mold counting and filth analysis.

Skill in observing environmental conditions affecting the product.

Factor 2. Supervisory Controls

The incumbent follows established detailed procedures on routine assignments which are carried out under general supervision by a higher graded ACG. For unusual tasks or those not previously performed, the employee receives specific and detailed oral and written instructions. Problems and questions where conflicts are involved are referred to the supervisor. Work is reviewed for accuracy and compliance to instructions while in progress and upon completion.

Factor 3. Guidelines

Guidelines are specific and clear-cut and consist of the: Instruction for Inspection and Certification of Natural Condition Raisins, Grading Manual for Processed Raisins, and Handbook for Raisin Microanalysis. Proposed significant deviations from the guidelines are referred to the supervisor.

Factor 4. Complexity

The Aid does the routine tasks necessary required to complete the inspection of the commodity by the Agricultural Commodity Grader. The assignments are clear-cut and follow already established procedures. However, there is a great need for accuracy and attention to detail.

Factor 5. Scope and Effect

The purpose of the Aid's work is to assist the Agricultural Commodity Grader by performing routine tasks necessary to complete the inspection or grading of the product. The accuracy of the Aid's work directly affects the reliability of the final determinations and certificates issued by the ACG. These determinations affect the product's price and/or acceptability in relation to contract specifications which, in turn, affect the financial interests of buyers and sellers.

Factor 6. Personal Contacts

The Aid may have nominal contact with growers, plant personnel, or other industry people. Other contacts are coworkers and Area office personnel.

Factor 7. Purpose of Contacts

The purpose of the contacts of the Aid are to exchange information relative to the sampling, checkloading, lab work, etc., being done.

Factor 8. Physical Demands

Agricultural Commodity Aid work may require periods of physical exertion to lift and move boxes and cartons of product often weighing up to 50 pounds. There are prolonged periods of standing, walking, stooping, and bending. The Aid must be able to detect abnormalities in the commodity through normal or corrected vision in at least one eye for distance, depth perception, and color.

Factor 9. Work Environment

The work environment includes exposure to high and low temperatures, slippery surfaces, moving materials, handling equipment, high noise level, and similar risks typical of raisin processing plants and storage areas.